

**Irrigated Lands Program  
Public Advisory Committee Meeting  
14 February 2005**

Brief overview of comments and questions during meeting.

**Coalition Group Reporting**

**San Joaquin River and Delta Water Quality Coalition:** (John Meek)

- Did not sample storm event runoff because not as much dormant spraying occurred in previous months.
- Current status for sampling: standing by to catch upcoming runoff event.

**East San Joaquin River Water Quality Coalition:** (Perry Klassen)

- Three sampling events have taken place to date
- Dormant sprays delayed until first three weeks of January
- Found one site to have toxicity, also algae toxicity and sediment toxicity.
- In weeks ahead: plan to meet with local growers to discuss BMPs and current status of monitoring findings.
- No current storm monitoring.
- Plan for upcoming storm event.

**South San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition:** (Bill Thomas)

- Currently monitoring 9 stations (started in July 2004).
- Findings: Limited toxicity from locations.
- Sediment samples: 1 potential sample with toxicity.
- Stormwater samples: 3 of 4 sampling locations had trigger to conduct storm sampling event.
- Plan for storm sampling in upcoming storm event.

**Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition:** (Joe McGahan)

- Currently monitoring 19 sites since July to August.
- Collected stormwater sampling event in December 2004 and January 2005.
- 6% of analysis showed measurable pesticides
- 1% of samples from storm event showed toxicity.

**Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition:** (Aaron Ferguson)

- Conducted sampling in January 2005.
- 3 sites found to have toxicity, none with persistence.
- 1 site from the previous sites sampled continues to show toxicity.
- Samples did not trigger Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs).

**Update on Central Valley Water Board EIR Process:** (Pete Osmolovsky)

- Currently developing Scope of Work for Contract and Cost estimates
- Purpose of EIR is to evaluate and define purpose of long-term program.

**Update on State Water Board's Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program:**  
(Beth Jines)

- State Water Board received 71 project proposals, 69 moved forward;
- \$46.4 million of Proposition 40 and 50, and CWA Section 319 funds is available;
- \$32 million requested through the proposals submitted.

**Questions Asked and Comments Made During Meeting:**

**EIR Selection Process**

Question/Comment:

Bill Jennings: "What was the public process for the selection of the consultant for the EIR?" Mr. Jennings asked if the criteria used to select Jones & Stokes is available for review.

Response:

Pete Osmolovsky: The Request for Qualifications is posted on the Central Valley website.

**State Water Board Fee Meetings**

Question/Comment:

Bill Jennings: "What environmental representation has been brought in for the discussions that have taken place with the coalition groups?"

Mr. Jennings noted that there have been a lot of meetings with growers and staff but no meetings with environmental folks. He stated that he wants to participate in such meetings and wants to know if there is a proposed use for the State fees that will be collected and if coalitions groups will be keeping any of the funds.

Response:

Al Brizard: Stated that there has only been one meeting so far to discuss the State Water Board fees with coalition groups and that there will be another one next week. State Water Board staff will circulate the final draft fee schedule alternative. The Irrigated Lands Program is not funded by general funds. All programs are going towards being fee-based.

Questions/Comments:

Aaron Ferguson: Expressed concern from coalition group members regarding the current status of Regional Boards hiring as it relates to costs and efficiency.

Response:

Gary Carlton: Fees are going towards oversight of Coalitions, review of Monitoring and Enforcement, identification of non-participants, Programmatic EIR critical to long term program success. Initial funding for all of this came from State Board.

## **Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program Funding**

### **Question/Comments:**

Parry Klassen: "How many projects were sent back for more information?"

David Boland: There are several specific coalition-type projects that are not on the list of projects proposed to be funded by the State Board. There are a lot of general agency-based research projects being funded. I thought the funding was to support the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program. Several specific coalition-type projects that were proposed are not on the list of proposed funding projects.

### **Response:**

Beth Jines: Two proposals. Once information is received, those proposals will go forward for funding commitments."

## **Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program**

### **Questions/Comments:**

Perry Klassen: What is the status of the development of a low threat waiver?

Dennis Grudgel: Coalition Groups are concerned about ground water being added to the existing Conditional Waiver Program. He wants to know if there have been discussions with the Department of Pesticide Regulations so that there won't be any overlapping in monitoring. Says the fee schedules being based on acreage will raise questions from growers. Wants to know how non-participation is going to be handled.

Bill Thomas: Expressed concern over ground water being added to Conditional Waiver.

### **Response:**

Bill Croyle: Reassures that ground water was proposed by staff but is not an issue with the current conditional waiver. Entering a critical phase of finding those growers that are not participating. The Regional Board is raising the level of awareness of those not participating. 13267 letters will soon be sent out to some identified growers. A Progressive Enforcement process will be implemented. At the last Regional Board Meeting, staff proposed process to develop a low threat waiver starting in June 2003 with adoption later this calendar year.

## **Water Quality Monitoring**

### **Achievement Acknowledged:**

Al Brizard: Coalition groups and Regional Board Phase II monitoring efforts are progressing in a timely manner.